IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 5 and 7, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed units capable of setting index sheets, comprising:

a storage section which stores size information, type information and index number information indicating the number of index sheets per set of paper sheets set in each paper unit in a case where index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed units; ~~and~~

a determining section which determines whether index number information of a first paper feed unit coincides with that of a second paper feed unit or that of a third paper feed unit;

a first control section which performs processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from [[a]] the first paper feed unit to [[a]] the second paper feed unit and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to [[a]] the third paper feed unit in a case where paper sheets are set in the first paper feed unit are run out, the type information of the first paper unit indicates an index sheet, and all of the elements of a first predetermined condition [[is]] are satisfied[[,]]; and

a second control section which performs processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from the first paper feed unit to the second paper feed unit and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to the third paper feed unit in a case where paper sheets set in the first paper feed unit are run out, the type information of the first paper feed unit does not indicate the index sheet, and all of the elements of a second predetermined condition are satisfied,

wherein the first predetermined condition is that the size information, type information and the index number information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit, and at least one of the size information, the type information and the index number information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit ~~in a case where the type information of the first paper feed unit indicates an index sheet~~, and

the second predetermined condition is that the size information and type information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit, and at least one of the size information and type information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit ~~in a case where the type information of the first paper feed unit does not indicate an index sheet~~. .

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage section stores index shape information indicating a shape of the index portion of the paper sheet set in the paper feed units,

wherein said first control section performs processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from the first paper feed unit to the second paper feed unit in a case where the index shape information of the first paper feed unit coincides with that of the second paper feed unit, and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to the third paper feed unit in a case where the ~~wherein at least one~~

~~of the size information, index number information and~~ index shape information of the first paper feed unit [[do]] does not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises a unit change setting section which determines whether to automatically enable paper feed unit change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed units and sets a unit change setting in accordance with a predetermined condition,

wherein the predetermined condition is that the unit change setting section sets the unit change setting to automatically enable change processing for the second paper feed unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed unit capable of setting index sheets, comprising:

a storage step of storing paper size information, type information and index number information indicating the number of index sheets per set paper sheet set in each paper feed unit in a case where the index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed units; ~~and~~

a determining step section which determines that index number information of a first paper feed unit coincides with that of a second paper feed unit or that of a third paper feed unit;

a first control step of performing processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from [[a]] the first paper feed unit to [[a]] the second paper feed unit and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to [[a]] the third paper feed unit in a case where paper sheets set in the first paper feed unit are run

out, the type information of the first paper unit indicates an index sheet, and all of the elements of a predetermined condition [[is]] are satisfied,

a second control step of performing processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from the first paper feed unit to the second paper feed unit and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to the third paper feed unit in a case where paper sheets set in the first paper feed unit are run out, the type information of the first paper feed unit does not indicate the index sheet, and all of the elements of a second predetermined condition are satisfied,

wherein the first predetermined condition is that the size information, type information, and index number information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit, and at least one of the size information, type information, and index number information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit ~~in a case where the type information of the first paper feed unit indicates an index sheet~~, and

the second predetermined condition is that the size information and the type information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit, and at least one of the size information and the type information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit ~~in a case where the type information of the first paper feed unit does not indicate an index sheet~~.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said storage section stores index shape information indicating a shape of the index portion of the paper sheet set in the paper feed units,

wherein said first control step performs processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from the first paper feed unit to the second paper feed unit in a ca se where the index shape information of the first paper feed unit coincides with that of the second paper feed unit, and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to the third paper feed unit in a case where ~~wherein at least one of the size information, index number information and~~ the index shape information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the control method further comprises a unit change setting step of determining whether to automatically enable paper feed unit change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed units and sets a unit change setting in accordance with a predetermined condition,

wherein the predetermined condition is that the unit change setting section sets the unit change setting to automatically enable change processing for the second paper feed unit.

9-13. (Cancelled)